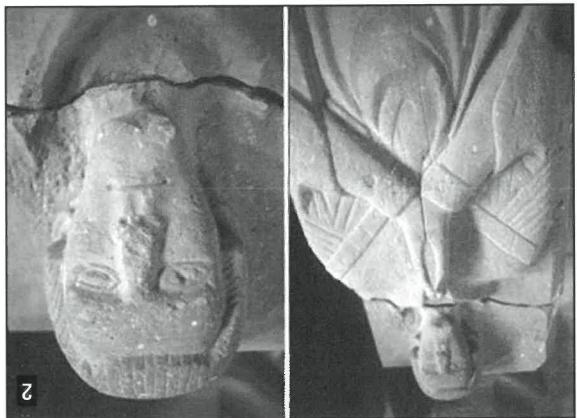




At some time around the first week of May 2012 a small memorial was taken from St Michael's Church, Castle Frome (3). Herfordshire. I had much admired this touching figure and photographed it in 2009. It appears the thieves climbed onto a window ledge in the church and used a chisel to remove the carving from part of the window frame. The stone carving but obviously it means a lot to the people who frequent this church. They are extremely upset said; It is impossible to put a value on the stone carvings but obviously it means a lot to the people that the carving has been stolen. Me too!

already deracched but lay with the rest of the efficacy in the grade one listed building until unknown offenders stole it. The item is 700 years old and has significant historical and community value. Our picture is



Heritage thefts from churches

In March the extreme left hand panel from St Peter's Church in Drayton (1), near Abingdon, fourteenth-century alabaster reredos was stolen from The panel depicts the Annunciation and measures approached by Warden Wallerite Cross said: I think we're all in a state of shock. We're all very upset by it. The panels were discovered in the church grounds in 1814. It is believed they had been buried to prevent them being destroyed. This important reredos has often been illustrated in books on church architecture and fittings. Our image is by Martin Beck, by kind permission: you can find other images by him on www.flitckr.com.

During the first two weeks of April 2012 part of All Saints church Newland (2), near Coleford, Gloucestershire, a church which he founded in the thirteenth century. The head of the monument was a stone effigy to Robert De Wakeinge was stolen from a stone effigy to Robert De Wakeinge was stolen from All Saints church Newland (2), near Coleford, Gloucestershire, a church which he founded in the thirteenth century.

Churches across the country already suffering an unprecedented rise in metal theft, chiefly lead from roofs, are now facing the theft of artefacts which in some cases have been on display for hundreds of years and are part of the community's history. In March English Heritage reported that 70,000 listed buildings, 19 per cent of the listed buildings in England, were damaged by crime in 2011, although this is mainly metal theft from the roofs.

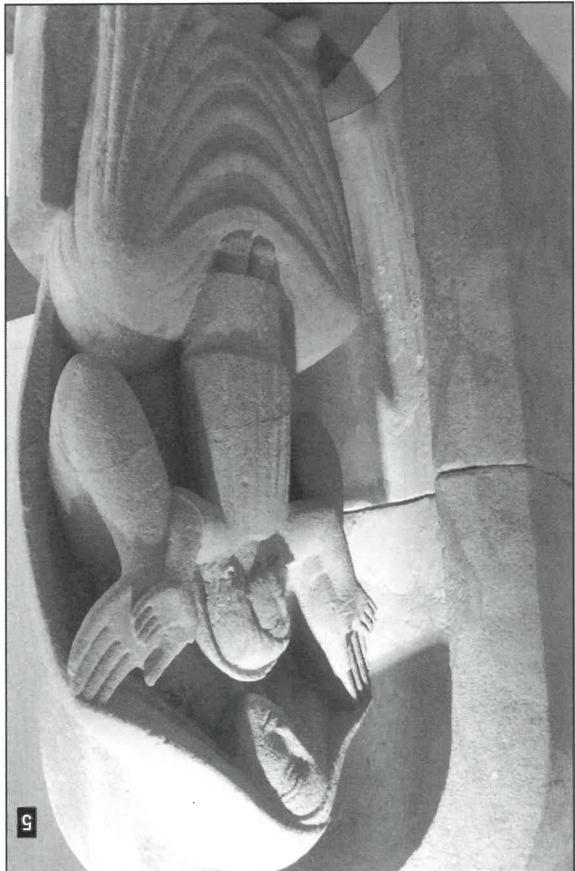
Local Environmental Health Authority had to be called in after some of the church's helpers had fallen ill. Following the work on the roof being completed, a clean-up operation, which cost thousands of pounds and took a specialist team of five people two days to complete once was finished, gathered 13kg of bat droppings. Liz said: Nobody was allowed into the church unprotected as a result of the toxic aerosol droppings. My team of dedicated volunteers then disturbed. My former glory next summer. Jonathan Mortimer, a solicitor in Harrogate, helped the church in its campaign and said: We must all keep our fingers crossed that the limited licence issued by Natural England will be sufficient when the bats return in greater numbers. Ashley Burgess, a member of the PCC, said: I anticipate that this year we will not bat up with being bombed by bats flying around the church during our carol service as we have experienced in previous years.

A North Yorkshire church plagued by bats finally reopened last Christmas. St Hilda's Church in Ellerburn (4) near Pickering (picture by Nigel Coates) was closed for several months after the congregation lost its battle with a long-term infestation of Natterer's bats, which have lived in the church for ten years. This was the first time in its 1,000-year history that the church closed, but in September, following a lengthy campaign, it was granted a licence from Natural England to block up some of the access points which the bats have been using to colonise the church. As a compromise, following a long-term ban on bats will be monitored.

Churchwarden Liz Cowley said the walls, floors and altar of the Saxon church had been covered with bat droppings and sprayed with urine. She said the bats, pulpit and font had all been damaged and the woodwork, artefacts, stone flooring slabs, pews, choir stalls, pulpit and font had all been damaged and the bat droppings and spray had been covered with paint. Churchwarden Liz Cowley said the walls, floors and alter of the Saxon church had been covered with bat droppings and spray had been covered with paint and activity will be monitored.

Another matter about Bats





5

Sculpture finds a new home



Father Kevin Knox-Lecsky, of St Mary's Church, said: "Working to find a suitable place for it to be displayed, since then, the Catholic Church has been identified as a work by the famous sculptor.

Eric Gill and was first placed in a niche at St Mary's church for 10 years where it could be seen by passers-by, but was removed to enable work to make a larger building to be done. Because it didn't fit in with the new design the statue was moved to the church cemetery. Burdett's Madonna, as it was named, was left forgotten until the 1980s when it was

The statue was carved out of limestone by British sculptor Eric Gill and was first placed in a niche at St Mary's church for 10 years where it could be seen by passers-by, but was removed to enable work to make a larger building to be done. Because it didn't fit in with the new design the statue was moved to the church cemetery. Burdett's Madonna, as it was named, was left forgotten until the 1980s when it was



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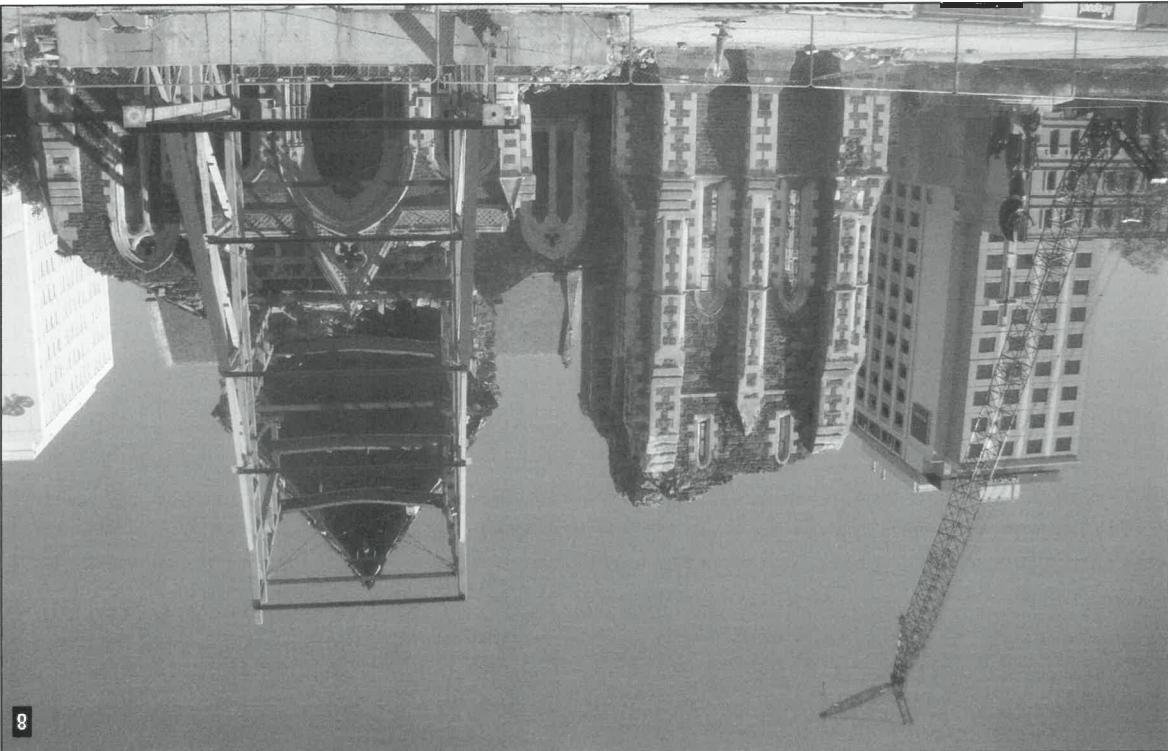
This may give other congregations some heart in their ancient buildings to preserve some mammals protected by these plagues. In my own travels some of the worst examples I have found were at Stanford on Avon in Northamptonshire (with its priceless monuments and fine hunting lodges) and Keyston in Cambridgeshire, Stamford on Avon in Northamptonshire, Mark in Somerset, and Burghley House in Rutland. Here the problem is so bad that the church had to be shrouded in polythene.



Some restoration news



Glastonbury Abbey is a particularly appropriate place for the statue of the Madonna and Child as it was the site of Our Lady's ancient shrine and a centre of pilgrimage to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



reconstruction. However the decision has been taken to demolish Scott's cathedral and draw up plans for a new cathedral on its site. Despite this there are still attempts to stop the deconsecration and clearance of the site using legal and press opinion to insist the tubs will form the skeleton of the A-frame building, which timber, steel and concrete also used in the construction. The intention is to finish the building by Christmas. Designed to last at least 20 years, the 700-seat structure is the brainchild of Shigeru Ban, the Japanese architect responsible for temporary public buildings in quake-ravaged areas of Japan and Haiti. Richard Gray, a spokesman for the Transitional Cathedral Group, said the temporary cathedral would cost up to NZ\$5 million (£2.6 million), most of which was already in hand. 'The transitional cathedral is a symbol of hope for the future of this city, as well as being sustainable and affordable', he said. 'The cathedral is confident it will attract interest nationally and internationally, drawing additional visitors to the area.'

The, twisted and shattered, Anglican Cathedral (8) at Christchurch has been discovered to be more damaged than first thought. The February 2011 earthquake cracked pillars, twisted walls, shattered glass, collapsed buttresses, fractured masonry and toppled the tower; and many aftershocks have further weakened what remained and finally toppled the rose window on the west front. Cathedral administrator manager Chris Oldham said the true extent of the damage became clear only after staff at the whole building is twisted. It has moved, he said. The building is actually in quite a sad way, butterflies have stones coming out of them. If you look at the wall on the south side, you can see how the top half of it has moved one way and the bottom half of it has moved the other way. The stained-glass windows are all twisted and shattered on that side. When you go inside, the Oamaru stone blocks have come away from the wall and are loose and at unusual angles. The iconic building has seen public and press opinion split, with many people calling for a complete reconstruction.

Christchurch New Zealand Cathedrals -

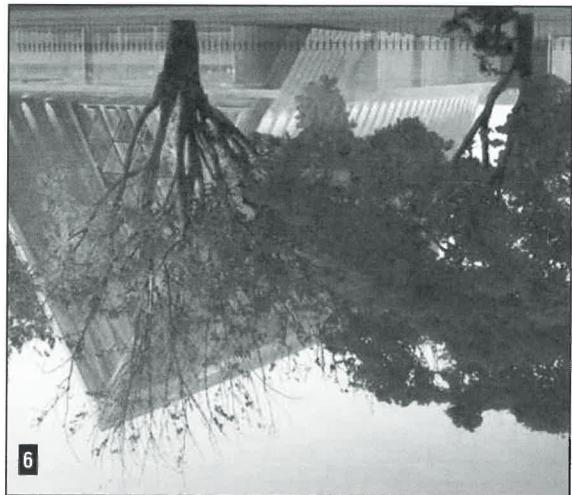
Government will now expand the Listed Places of Buildings (which were previously exempted), the Impostion of 20% VAT for alterations to Listed After announcing in his 2012 budget statement the VAT on alterations to listed churches



Catholics are thinking.

movement, but we have to have a good idea what soundings of what people think. It can't be a mass of the building. We will need to have a pretty big involved in some way in the final decision on the fate Bishop Jones said the wider diocese would be get a full picture of what the actual position is. is there. I'm prepared to wait as long as I have to, to the information has been gathered in yet about what was satisfied he had all the relevant knowledge. Not all Jones said he would not make that decision until he several years of work by themselves. Bishop Barry demolition, rebuilding or mothballing, he said. The churches in the diocese. There were three options – Ryan said discussions leading up to a decision on

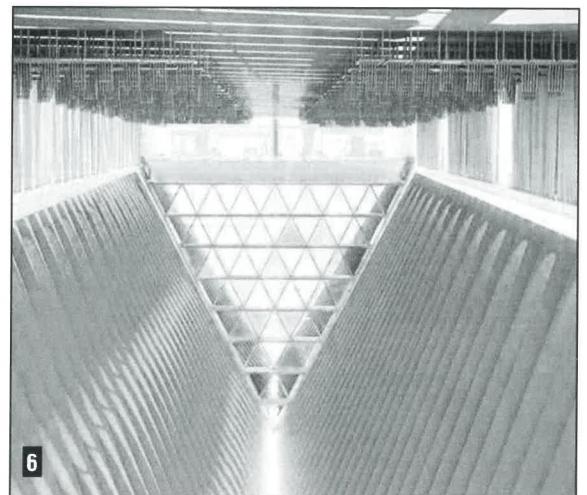
would be needed to take out the main organ. was a plan to remove more windows and a special plan transported to the site in the months to come. There could well be at least six, and more likely twelve, months away. The cathedral's fate had to be considered whether the cathedral would be rebuilt or demolished



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design of new elements. Currently deconstruction used for any rebuild, they would act as a guide for the night, to a secret storage site. Even if they were not unique and saving and numbering stones, windows cleaning and salvaging and damaged parts of the cathedral, on reconstructing the damaged parts of the cathedral, on To date the diocese has spent about \$3 million shippling containers).

shows the cathedral in September 2011, held up by start of this year (10) (our image, by PhilBENZ, had certainty and could be fully functional at the Marian College, in the fall zone of the cathedral, Catholic Cathedral College and the site-sharing pressure had been on to make the building safe so Ryan said the Catholic authorities' silence about the old gasworks. Management Board chairman Lance unashamedly part of the city near to the railway and Anglicans, the cathedral being built in an originally the benefit of being in a far less public space than the largely from view. Of course, the Catholics have taken completely the opposite track and disappeared issued, show unfolding in Cathedral Square. They have learned from the how not to handle a controversial issue, the Catholics have obviously watched and space, the Catholics have obviously watched and commanded hundreds of column centimetres of about the fate of the Anglican cathedral has city'. It is being built on the nearby site of the church, www.christchurchcathedral.co.nz.



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expectations of both congregations and wider sustainable future by meeting the changing needs and building is only part of the story; it must also have a new programme will recognize that preparing

There will be some changes in the focus as the last ten years with English Heritage.

places of worship fund it has run in partnership for the takes over the management of the Repair Grants for From April 2013 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

Repair grants for places of worship



churches.

Risk Register in regard to Listed Church of England Risk Register in regard to Listed Church of England allows English Heritage to complete its Buildings at allow English Heritage to complete its Buildings at resources and make the case for grant aid. It will also problems; and at local and national level, to prioritise the Church at national level, to understand the CCBD says the results will help dioceses and between September 2012 and March 2013.

The Cathedral and Church Buildings Division CCBD) of the Church of England recently received grant funding from English Heritage to commission a national survey of the condition of all Church of England churches building. The work will take place between September 2012 and March 2013.

Church Fabric Condition Survey

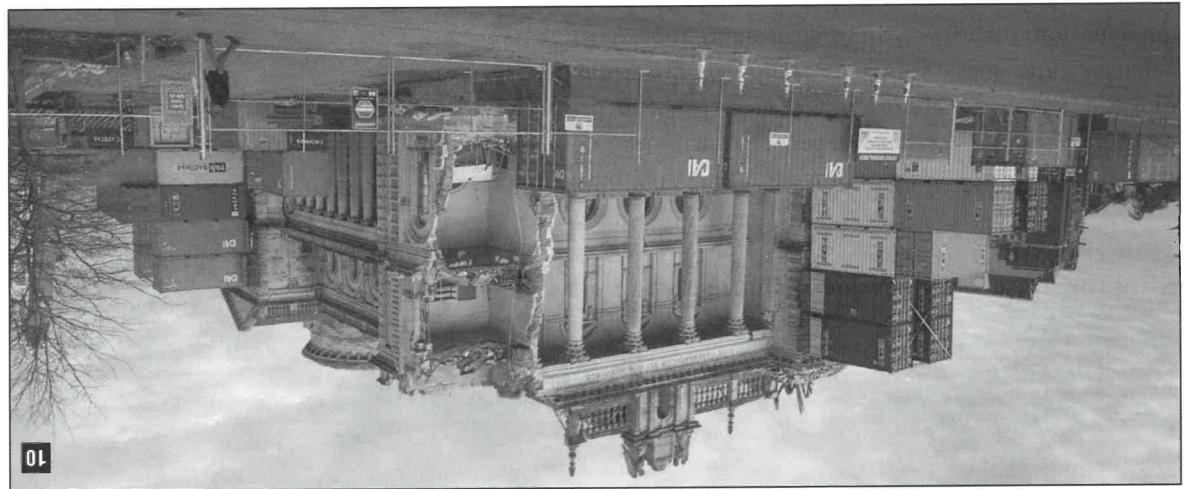


which she called the VAT duty. It can still be seen here <http://www.youtub.com/watch?v=EWgVKBkpel>

Wakefield who posted a musical video to YouTube to the VAT plan came from the wife of the Dean of perhaps the most public (and original) objection heritage, tourism and local communities.

are instead buildings, and which are important for galleries, theatres, libraries and community centres that said, it won't help the National Trust, all the museums, hit and Labour culture spokesman Harry Harman said alterations to other listed buildings still be yourself. However, Ben Cowell of the National Trust, have dug yourself out of a hole into which you placed Mr Osborne, can I congratulate you on the way you have welcomed the move. Mr Field told cathedrals, welcomed the move. Mr Field chairman of the planning authority for English best to protect churches. Labour MP Frank Field, He listened to what we had to say, and has done his had been given to the impact of the tax rise, adding Chancellor had conceded that insufficient thought had been given to the Church Commissioners in Parliament, said the Tory MP Sir Tony Baldry, who represents the maintenance'.

recent years they have not been able to get 100 per cent compensation for those repairs and cent alterations and should also go a long way to helping for the additional cost borne by [listed] churches for compensation, exactly as we promised in the Budget, for the next three years. That will be 100 per cent total fund will now stand at £42 million, guaranteed grant per annum. George Osborne announced, 'The make available a maximum additional £30 million of Worshippers Grant Scheme to include alterations, and



In the previous edition we carried a new feature – an account of a day's church drawing. My thanks go to Chris Stafford for his second article in the series, on an area of the country off the usual churchtrailers' track.

As you'll see, the style is informal and relaxed – a chance for members to communicate their enthusiasm. Please get in touch with me (*Phil Draper*) if you want to share with members a recent day out visiting churches or you wish to tell us about one particular church which is a real favourite. My contact details are above.

The Society apologises for any accidental breach of copyright in the images used here.

Thank you to all the readers who send me snippets of information between editions. Although not all of them make it to the final feature, often due to space constraints, they are appreciated and can be discussed on ChurchCrawling, an Email group at Yahoo (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChurchCrawling/). I can be contacted at churchcrawler@blueyonder.co.uk or by conventional means - Phil Draper, 10 Lambley Rd, St George, Bristol BS5 8QZ. Please note that photos or cuttings sent to me can only be returned if accompanied by SAE. The views expressed in the article are not to be taken as those of the Ecclesiological Society itself.

Finally . . .

◆ ◆ ◆

In February 2012 three damaged St Mary's church in Charlbury, Oxfordshire. Firefighters had to create a fire break by sawing through a fifteen-century roof in order to save the building. A team of specialists cleaners were brought in as the building was smoke damaged; they worked until the end of April. Repairs to the roof and redecoration of the interior will follow. The damage was to the chancel roof, so as a temporary measure while the chancel is closed, the church has rotated the interior by 180 degrees, with the tower arch acting as a chance arch, in front of the nave altar.

In August 2011 a 5.8 magnitude earthquake shook the mid-Atlantic coast of the United States causing significant damage to The National Cathedral in Washington, forcing it to close for safety checks and removal of damaged pinnacles. It has since reopened but repairs will run into millions of dollars. Also Baltimore was the Catholic cathedral basilica in damaged where cracks appeared in the dome. Repairs started in March 2012 and could take until Christmas. It was hoped the damage was mainly cosmetic rather than structural.

In brief

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As at present, it will be open to all listed places of worship and it will not be dependent on separate allocations according to listing.

to request specific help in this area.



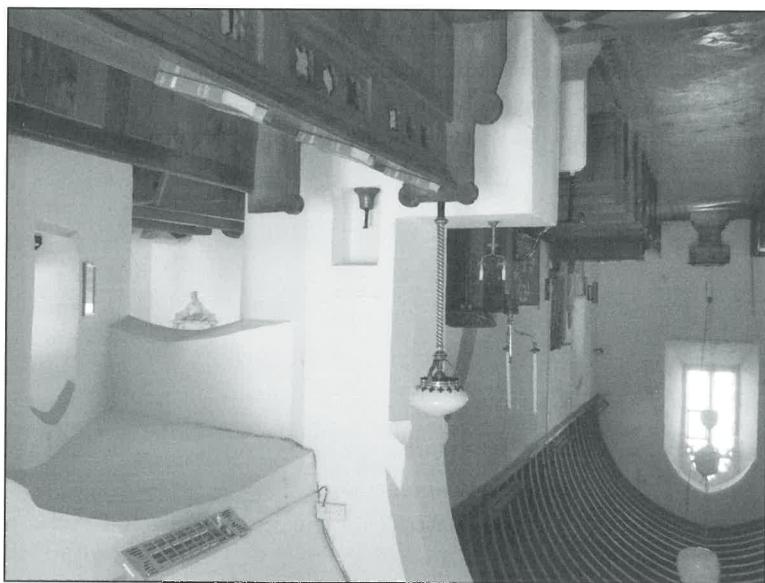
I'VE BEEN GOING to Pembrokeshire for many years, my sister has lived there for fifty years, we've had many trips for family events and this year was no exception. Whilst there I like to fit in a few days exploring the local churches. Pembrokeshire churches are very different from my native East Anglian affairs. Indeed dating these very plain, simple buildings is a real challenge. In West Wales I exchange arches, arcades and clerestories for squat, tiny transepts and low waves designed to avoid the prevailing westerlies.

It's our last day churchhopping in Pembrokeshire, I can't drag the long suffering Mrs Stafford around churches every day (sadly). The forecast is good and I'm wanting to visit some of the most westerly churches in the country on the Marloes Peninsula, close to the sea to the north.

Fig 1: Down by the river at Hwlldistion St Issels

Pembrokeshire – the Marloes Peninsula and above
Chris Stafford

Following on from the day out in Northamptonshire in the last edition of ChurchGaulter, Eccllesiastical Society member Chris Stafford takes us around some churches in one of his favourite parts of the world, Pembrokeshire in South Wales.



*Fig. 3: One of the walk-through
suites at Maerloes*

On the way to the peninsula we pass close to the market town of Haraldstønn (*Fig. 1*) to the south of the town, close to the Western Cleddau. It has just a farmhouse for company and sadly is locked, without a keyholder here. It is very tiny and a peek through the windows reveals a very plain interior.

Fig. 2: The only proper tower of the day at Maerlyn's Castle

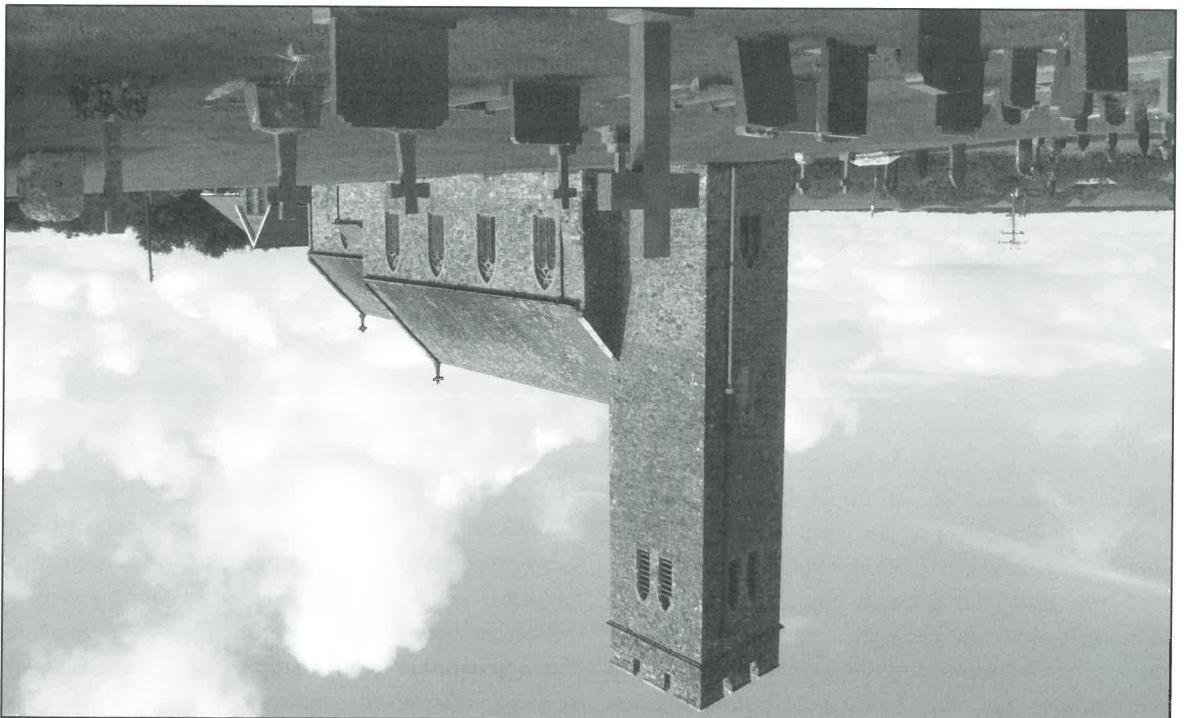
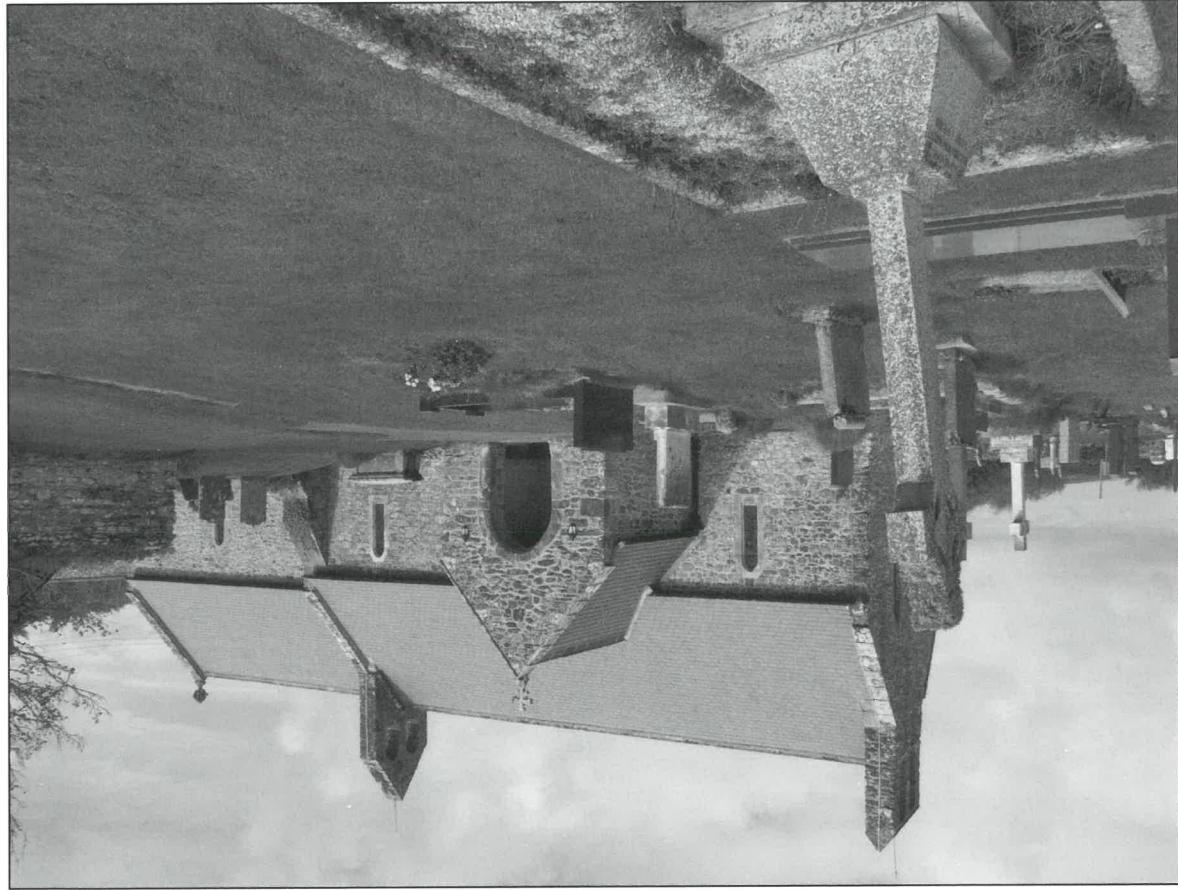


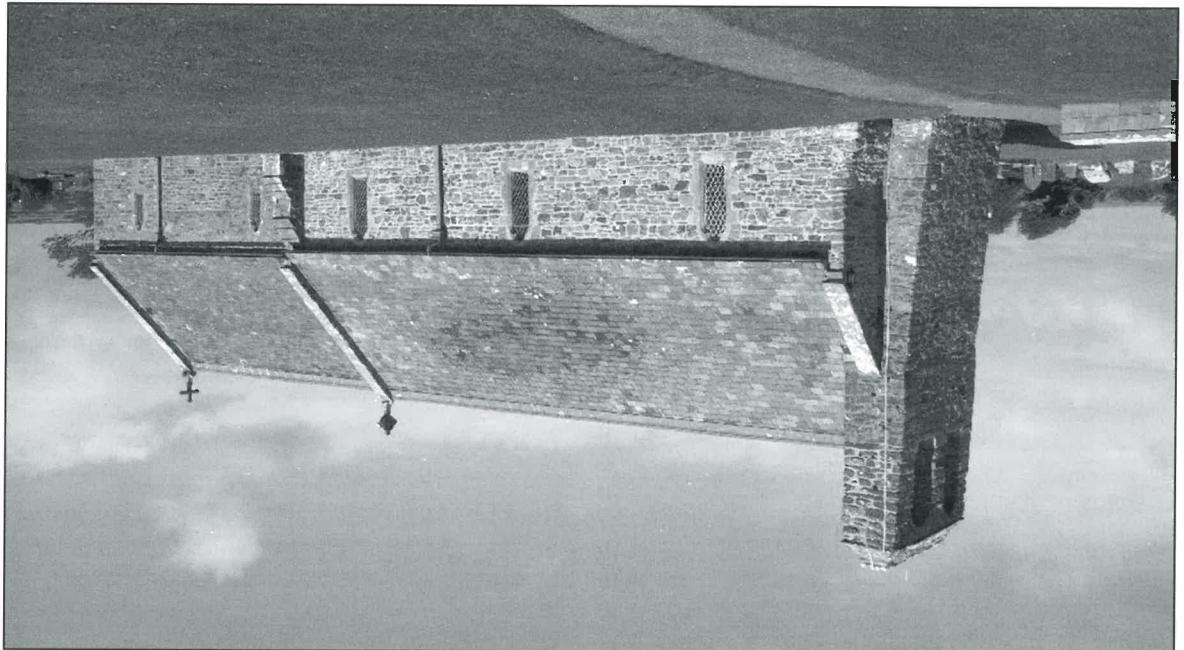
Fig. 4: St Brides church, with its unusual pair of double bellcotes

A rock rebuilt exterior to the prominent church of St Peter Marloes (Fig. 3), in a modest village exposed to the wild westerly winds in the remotest spot. There are no more villages until you get to America; the road past the village leads to the tiny slipway where the tourist boats take the bird watchers and day trippers over to the bird sanctuary of Skomer Island. I was beginning to fear a day of inaccessible churches so it was a delight to finally get inside. The church, restored by Pearson in 1875 – it has no tower, however it does

have; so we are obliged to press on to the village which gives its name see any name on any building that ties up with the information we existent and despite going up and down the road twice we cannot keyholder listed, but the address is very vague, road signs are non-existent, however heavily restored in 1878 and showing it. There is a tower, a very attractive exterior with a typically tall slim Pembrokeshire churchyard are the earthworks of the Norman castle. This church has a castle and the church of St James the Great (Fig. 2). Alongside the

Heading west on the B4327, it is a short detour to Wallwynd's Marloes (Fig. 3), in a modest village exposed to the wild westerly winds in the remotest spot. There are no more villages until you get to the peninsula.





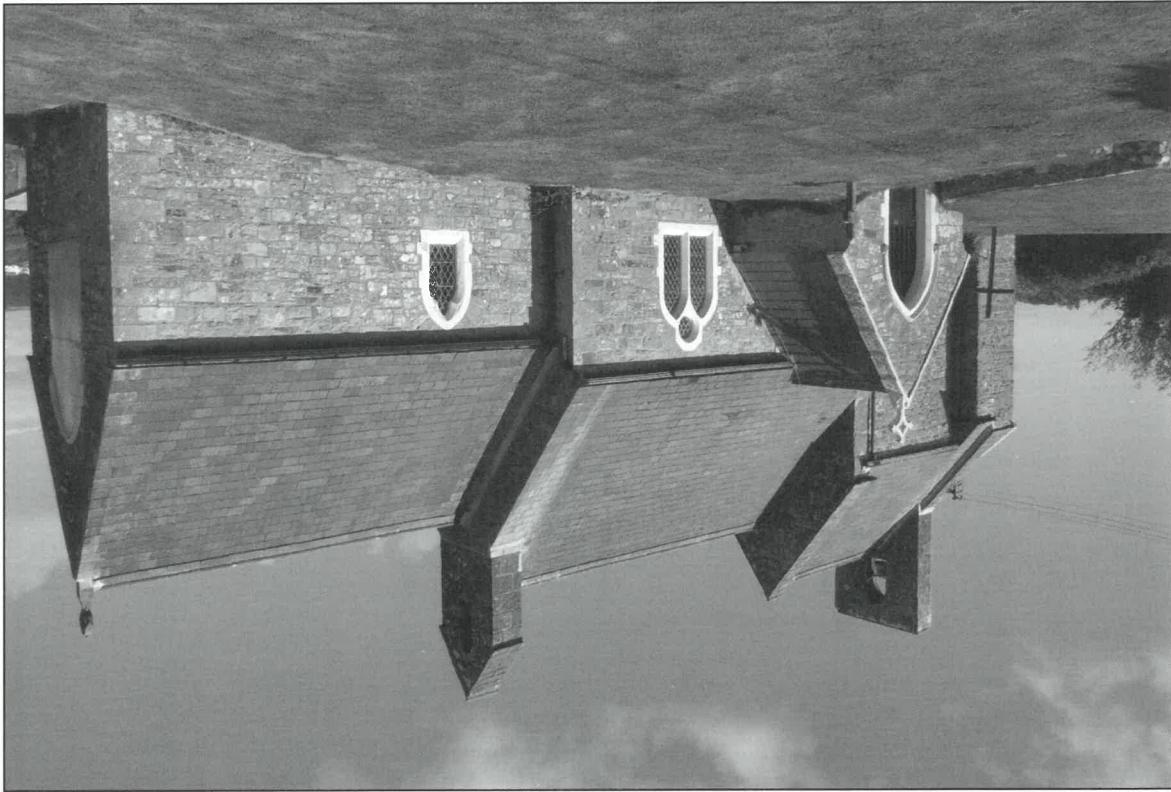
To the north of Marhoes is **St Bridget** and the church of St Bridget (*Fig. 4*). To quote a re-teller, this church is all location, location, location! It stands almost at the sea's edge, with the fine St Bridget (*Fig. 4*). Victorian St Bridget's Castle perched higher up, overlooking the whole cause.

It was to put in to counteract the growing threat from the Baptist font alongside an interesting Norman font. The *Buildings of Wales* says it was to be an unusual "open baptistery", an immersion interesting feature is the unusual "open baptistery". The most century) has a pointed vaulted roof, most attractive. The most have a fine brace of squat medieval transepts, plus the chancel (fourteenth

Fig. 6: Talbenny has a bellcote with a bather



Fig. 5: The unusual sculpture on the north transept altar at St Bridget's



The castle is one of those upmarket timeshare properties now, albeit originally a seaside retreat for Lord Kennington. The church but was originally a simple affair without tower, but unusually with not one but two double bellcotes, restored in 1868 by Charles Buckridge, who also provided the furnishings. The font is Norman and there is a small remainder of the medieval screen. One unusual feature is a modest sized semi-circular carving (Fig. 5), sitting on a small altar in the Nave. It allegedly shows the visit of Sheba to Solomon; most interesting and carved with some flair. There are some very damaged effigies in the North transept and also the church boasts some good glass. Outside there are a set of Celtic monuments to the Kennington clan. This was the best church of the day and a candidate for best one of our short break.

Whilst St Bride's was low down, almost by the water's edge, St Mary's church at Talbot (Fig. 6) stands all alone on the cliff top, with fine views over the whole of St Bride's Bay and the nearby sea-side resort of Broad Haven. It has a very simple layout, just a long nave and short chancel, very rustic, restored in 1869 (nave) and 1893 (chancel). There is some interesting stained glass of 1974 by Frank Roper of Penarth.

in the churchyard is an attractive schoolroom of 1810. Continuing on returned to the church, hence the two holes in the front of it. Also figure in the porch that spent some time as a gatepost before being corbel and the almost oblique Norman font. There is a very worn Limgen Baker in 1876-7, with little of note inside, except an odd and another small and finely crude church, restored again by E. H. again to the church at Noltoun (Fig. 9) also dedicated to St Madoe Still following the narrow coastal road north we turn inland Norman font heading the list, but being open is a bonus, I suppose. along fourteen years later. Little in the way of redeeming features, a including the gashasty stone pulpit, with the grim reavers coming churches, restored heavily by E. H. Limgen Baker in 1883-5, from the nearby sea, this is one of those better on the outside dedication to St Madoe of Fers. Set in a shallow valley and hidden Haroldston West (Fig. 8) and its church with an unusual back to the sea at Broad Haven and to the north we come to wonderful . . .

blue, inside as every scrap of fabric is a bright royal turquoise blue. century carved stone. The tower is vaulted and the church feels very chancel arch. Inside there is some good glass and a very fine tenth-century St Brides three is also a second bellcote over the bellcote, and like St Brides this is much truncated and now topped with a kept church. The tower is much truncated and this is a well Wattonwest (Fig. 7). Standing in a circular churchyard this is a well through Little Haven and turn briefly inland again to All Saints at Talbenny we leave the peninsula and drop down steeply

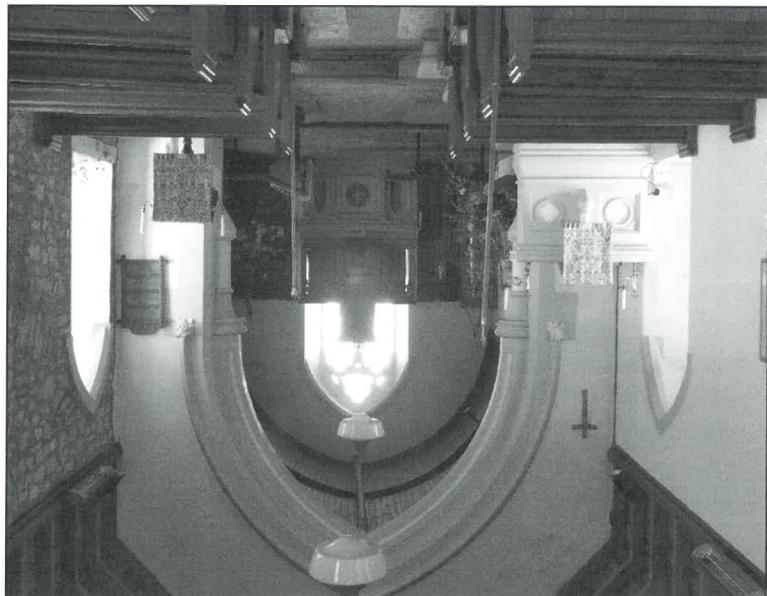
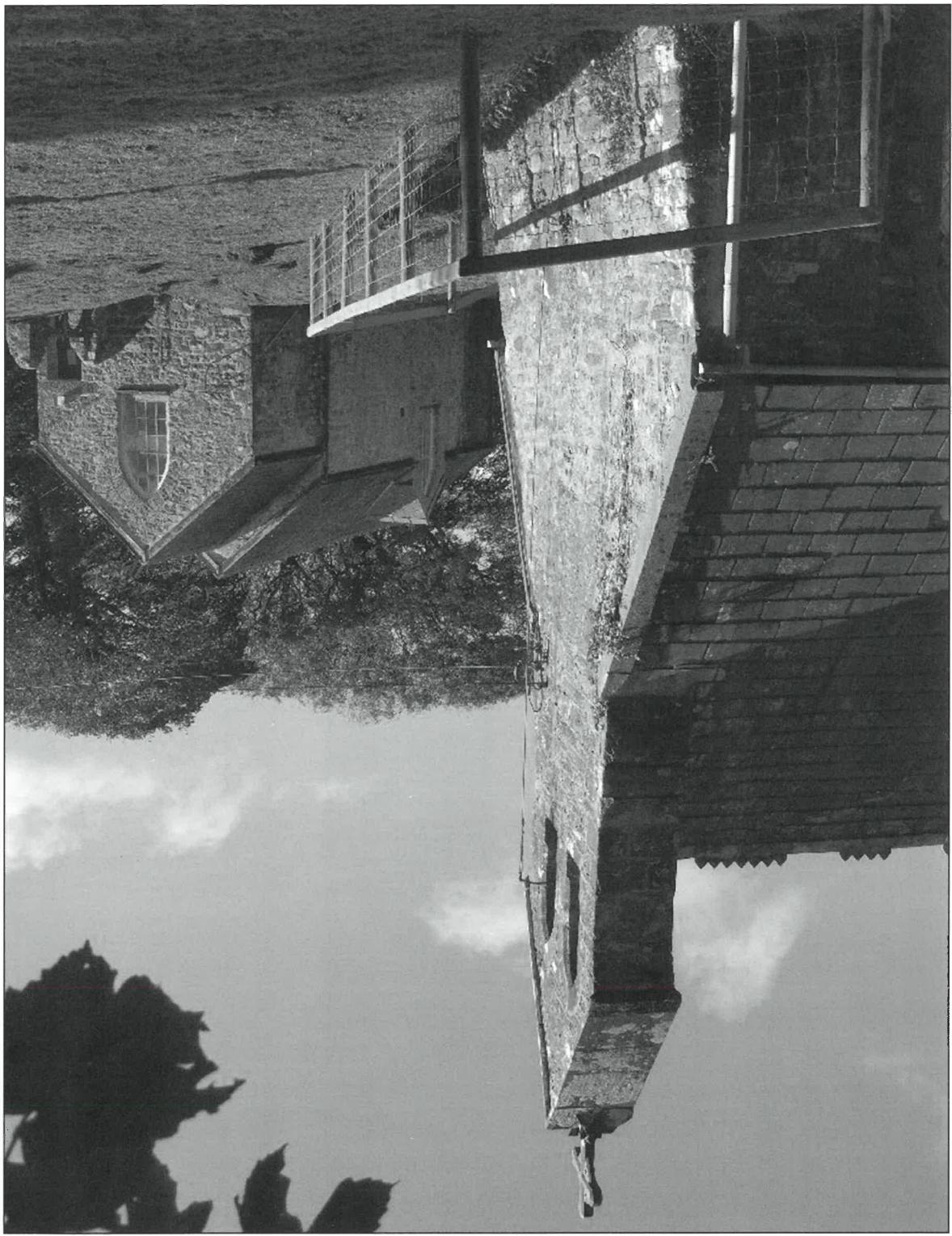


Fig. 8: Haroldston West's interior is a result of heavy restoration

Fig. 9: Nolton church and schoolroom, a happy pairing



All photographs taken by the author

Churches and wonderful scenery, what more can you want in a day out?
 able to inspect the pews and pulpits from 1907. Instead we take time out to relax on the beach watching the waves break noisily over the rocks.
 getting late in the day and the Gallery was closed, thus we were not in the local grey sandstone, this is now an Artists' Gallery, but it was originally built for the Congregationalists in 1858 and built to the nearby seaside village of Nolton Haven (Fig. 10), we pass a chapel.



Fig. 10: It wouldn't be Wales without one chapel - Nolton Haven